

What is claimed is:

1. In a system having application program interface, a method of identifying freeze methods appropriate for a storage object, the method comprising:
5 transmitting data to the application programming interface identifying the storage object; and
receiving, from the application programming interface, a freeze list with one or more freeze methods appropriate for freezing the storage object.

10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein each freeze method includes a measure of quiesce strength.

3. A computer-readable medium having program code which, when executed on a computer, implements the method of claim 1.

15 4. In a system having application program interface, a method of freezing a storage object, comprising:

transmitting data to the application programming interface identifying the storage object;

20 receiving a freeze list with one or more freeze methods appropriate for quiescing the storage object from the application programming interface;

selecting one of the freeze methods; and

issuing a command to the application programming interface to execute the freeze method.

25 5. The method of claim 4, wherein each freeze method includes a measure of quiesce strength and wherein selecting is a function of quiesce strength.

30 6. A computer-readable medium having program code which, when executed on a computer, implements the method of claim 4.

Sub A2

200801062001

7. An application program interface that operates with an application to generate frozen images of a storage object, the interface comprising:
means for receiving data identifying a storage object;
5 means for returning a freeze list with one or more freeze methods appropriate for freezing the storage object;
means for receiving a selected freeze method associated with the storage object; and
means for returning a frozen image as a function of the selected freeze
10 method.

8. The application program interface of claim 7, wherein the means for receiving data identifying a storage object includes a call which identifies the storage object and provides a list of preferences.

9. An application program interface that operates with an application to generate frozen images of a storage object, the interface comprising:
means for receiving data identifying a storage object; and
means for returning a frozen image of the storage object, wherein the means
20 for returning a frozen image includes means for transmitting a freeze list having and for transmitting a frozen image representative of the storage object.

10. The application program interface of claim 9, wherein the means for receiving data identifying a storage object includes a call which identifies the storage
25 object and provides a list of preferences.

11. An application program interface for controlling formation of a frozen image of a storage object, the interface comprising:
a storage object identifier, wherein the storage object identifier identifies the
30 storage object;

a freeze list data structure, wherein the freeze list data structure stores data representing one or more freeze methods appropriate for freezing the storage object;

a freeze method identifier, wherein the freeze method identifier identifies a selected freeze method from the one or more freeze methods; and

5 a data structure for returning a frozen image corresponding to the selected freeze method.

12. The application program interface of claim 11, wherein the storage object identifier is transferred within a call to the application program interface.

10

13. An application program interface for controlling quiescing of a storage object, the interface comprising:

a storage object identifier, wherein the storage object identifier identifies the storage object;

15

a quiesce data structure, wherein the quiesce data structure stores data representing one or more quiesce methods appropriate for quiescing the storage object; and

a quiesce method identifier, wherein the quiesce method identifier identifies a selected quiesce method from the one or more quiesce methods.

20

14. The application program interface of claim 13, wherein the application program interface transmits a signal on completion of storage object quiesce.

15. The application program interface of claim 13, wherein the storage object identifier is transferred within a call to the application program interface.

25

16. An application program interface for controlling quiescing of a storage object, the interface comprising:

means for receiving data identifying a storage object;

means for transmitting a quiesce list having one or more quiesce methods appropriate for quiescing the storage object; and

means for returning an indication that the storage object is quiesced.

- 5 17. The application program interface of claim 16, wherein the means for receiving data identifying a storage object includes a call which identifies the storage object and provides a list of preferences.

- 10 18. In a system having application program interface, a method of identifying quiesce methods appropriate for a storage object, the method comprising:

transmitting data to the application programming interface identifying the storage object; and

receiving a quiesce list with one or more quiesce methods appropriate for quiescing the storage object from the application programming interface.

15

19. The method of claim 18, wherein each quiesce method includes a measure of quiesce strength.

- 20 20. A computer-readable medium having program code which, when executed on a computer, implements the method of claim 18.